

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

Submitted herewith are seven (7) replacement drawings, containing Figs. 1, 2, 3(a), 3(b), 3(c), 4-7, 8(a), 8(b), 8(c), 9 and 10. The submitted drawings are intended to replace the corresponding drawings previously submitted on March 17, 2006. No new matter is added. The Examiner is respectfully requested to acknowledge receipt of these drawings.

Attachment: Seven (7) Replacement Sheets

REMARKS

Preliminary Matters

Applicant wishes to thank the Examiner for acknowledging Applicant's claim to foreign priority, and indicating receipt of the priority documents. Additionally, Applicant wishes to thank the Examiner for indicating his consideration of all the references noted on Applicant's Information Disclosure Statements of January 17, 2007, and March 17, 2007.

Objections to the Drawings

The Examiner has objected to the drawings. Specifically, the Examiner alleges that figures 7 and 8(a-c) should be designated as "Prior Art," and that the figures on drawing sheet pages 2, 4 and 7 include writing/words that are not in English. Without conceding the Examiner's arguments, the figures have been amended, and Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner remove the objections.

Allowable Subject Matter

The Examiner has indicated that claim 3 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all the elements of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicant has amended claim 1 with the Examiner's comments in mind.

Disposition of the Claims

Claims 1-6 are all of the claims pending in the application. Claims 1-3 currently stand rejected. Claims 4-6 have been withdrawn from consideration. Claim 3 has been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer, rendering the Examiner's rejection of claim 3 moot.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

The Examiner has rejected claims 1 and 2 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Japanese Patent No. 04-039414 to Takada et al. (hereinafter Takada) in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,916,751 to Sumita et al. (hereinafter Sumita). Applicant respectfully traverses the rejections for *at least* the following reasons.

As currently amended, claim 1 recites (in part):

the surface roughness of the raceway surface of the outer ring is in the range from 0.15 to 0.4 μmRa in terms of average roughness at the centerline thereof in both of the radial direction and the circumferential direction at least at portions in contact with the rollers,

a difference in surface roughness between measurements in the axial direction and the circumferential direction is 0.1 μmRa or less,

skewness (R_{sk}) is -0.4 or less, and

the roughness of a raceway surface of the inner ring is 0.1 μmRa or less in terms of average roughness at the centerline in the axial direction thereof.

Applicant submits that neither Takada nor Sumita discloses the above recitations of claim

1. For *at least* this reason, Applicant submits that claim 1 patentably distinguishes over the prior art. Furthermore, due *at least* to its dependence on claim 1, Applicant submits that claim 2 patentably distinguishes over the prior art.

Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

/Brian W. Hannon/

SUGHRUE MION, PLLC
Telephone: (202) 293-7060
Facsimile: (202) 293-7860

WASHINGTON DC SUGHRUE/265550

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CUSTOMER NUMBER

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Brian W. Hannon
Registration No. 32,778